

Appl. No. 09/912,525
Amdt. Dated August 2, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 9, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P12984US1
EUS/J/P/05-3175

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 12, and 13. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 11-17 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 - 9, 11 - 14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz et al (US Patent No. 6,643,701) in view of Wall et al. (US Patent No. 6,223,289) and further in view of Brezak, Jr. et al (US Patent No. 6,427,209). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that Aziz, Wall and Brezak do not disclose individually or in combination at least the following feature present in Claim 1 (similar features can be found in independent Claims 1, 11, 12, and 13) completing the connection to a second terminal prior to or during the authentication process.

The Aziz reference appears to disclose a method for connecting a first and second computer utilizing a third computer. A security link is established between the first and third computer and then a security link is established between the second and third computer. Effectively, when the user accesses the system in Aziz, the authentication appears to take place during login, since the phrase "During login the user is validated..."(col. 6, line 20-22) is used.

The Wall Reference appears to disclose a system and method that provides session and authentication management for a connected terminal. The session and authentication is managed by two entities. During login, an authentication manager validates the user (Col. 6, lines 20-25). When the user is authenticated, the user is given access to a session (Col. 6, line 67-Col. 7, lines 2-15). The emphasis is on login in Wall. This appears to mean that a user is connected and then when the user begins login, the authentication commences.

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Brezak discloses the computer initiating an authentication process when a user attempts to logon to a computer. (This is similar to the Wall reference) In the authentication process a network access control server obtains the user's account data from a directory service and includes the account data in a response sent to the computer to complete the logon. (Summary). Further, Brezak gives the user access to a session after the user is authenticated. (Col 6, line 64-Col 7, line 2).

The Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to claim 1

1. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing a connection between a first and second terminal in a network via a server, wherein the terminals are in non-permanent connection to the server, the method comprising the steps of:

simultaneously initiating a connection between the first terminal and the server and initiating an authentication process between the first terminal and the server;

completing the connection to the second terminal prior to or during the authentication process; and

terminating the connection between the first and second terminal if the authentication fails. (emphasis added)

The Applicant respectfully asserts that the emphasized limitations are not taught or suggested in the Wall or Brezak references.

First, note that Aziz, Wall and Brezak all initiate authentication during or after login/logon. This saves time but the contrast between the present invention and the prior art references is that the Applicant's invention initiates a connection between the calling terminal and the called terminal prior to or during login/logon.

The Applicant's invention discloses a method and system for improving the speed of connection between terminals that are connected to a network (mobile phone or computer). In contrast to the current state of the art, the connection process is initiated prior to or during the authentication process (Page 5, lines 1-20). The connection process includes a first terminal sending the address/phone number of a second terminal to a server coupled to the network. Prior to or at the same time as connecting to the server, the first terminal initiates an authentication of the first terminal with the server/network. Even if the authentication process is not complete, the server connects the first terminal and the second terminal (Page 9, lines 12-16). If the

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authentication fails, the first terminal is disconnected and as disclosed in the specification there are various ways that may cause the terminal to be disconnected, including previous authentication failures of the first terminal.

The contrast between Brezak and the present invention is that the user's authentication data is retrieved by a network access control server and sent to a computer, which uses the data to complete the user logon. The present invention discloses a server connecting the first terminal with a second terminal while at the same time authenticating the user and instead of preventing the logon of the user, as in Brezak, the invention disconnects the user/terminal if the logon is not successful. Wall on the other hand, authenticates during login enabling the user to connect to a service, but only when the authentication manager notifies the session manager that the authentication is successful (Col. 6, line 67-Col. 7, line 1). Aziz also authenticates during login (see above). This being the case, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of amended claim 1.

Claims 2-9 depend from amended claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-9 is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 12, and 13 are analogous to claim 1 and contain novel limitations similar to the limitations in claim 1. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14 and 17, which depend from claim 14, recite further limitations in combination with the novel limitations of claim 13. The withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11-14 and 17 are respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 6, 15, 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz in view of Wall in view of Brezak, and further in view of Jiang (US Patent No. 6,741, 853). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that Aziz, Wall, Brezak and Jiang do not disclose individually or in combination at least the feature present in Claim 1 and 13 from which claims 3, 6, 15 and 16 depend respectively.

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The Jiang reference is cited for disclosing usage of a cell phone as a terminal device in a network. However, Jiang does not disclose the element of a first terminal being connected to a second terminal prior to or during a server authentication process of the first terminal; an element also missing from Aziz, Wall and Brezak.

Claims 3, 6, 15, 16 depend from amended independent claims 1, 11, 12 and 13 and recite additional limitations. Since claims 3, 6, 15, and 16 contain the same novel elements of their respective independent claims, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 6, 15, and 16.

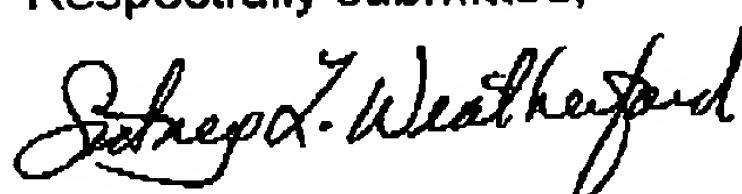
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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